

HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSOIN

AGENDA

TUESDAY, November 28, 2006

7:00 PM

1. Introduction of Guests
2. October Minutes
3. Old Business
 - Nov, 21 MAPS Meeting
 - Dorothea Dix Park boundary – quotes Arthur Emerson
 - Conservation Award Criteria – Committee recommendations
 - Tree Planting
 - Open Space mapping
 - Recommendations for green space signs-Budget item
 - Recommendation re: fish warden
 - Other
4. New Business
 - Vernal Pool Article-Don
 - Land use priority system
 - Smart growth overlay systems
 - Community Service Committee
 - Other
5. Town Planners Report
6. Next Meeting Date: December 26, 2006 7:00 PM
7. Adjournment

Hampden Conservation Commission
November 28, 2006 Meeting
Minutes

Present: Ed Steltzer (Chair), Mark McCollough, Bob Osborne, Mike Robbins (minutes), and guest .

The usual progression of the meeting was changed while we awaited enough members to form a quorum.

A. Town Planner's Report: There is a request from the Council for the HCC to help with generating a map that includes all jurisdictional wetlands on a Town of Hampden Zoning Map. The first step will be to integrate all areas subject to shoreland zoning into the map. It will be important to differentiate state imposed restrictions from local restrictions. Ultimately the ideal will be to have some degree of protection for all streams and brooks, whether jurisdictional or not. New shoreland zoning regulations will need to be prepared by May 2008.

The HCC recommends to the Town Council that water bodies and wetlands on the map of "Areas subject to shoreland zoning and salmon habitat regulations" be integrated into the "Town of Hampden Zoning Map."

Shoreland zoning issues pertain to the Northeast Timber development proposal on the Kennebec Road. A site visit will be needed to ascertain the degree to which forested wetlands will come into play and whether a 75 foot or 250 foot setback is needed from other water bodies.

B. Introduction of Guest: Not necessary this month.

C. Minutes from the October 2006 meeting: Minutes were accepted.

D. Old Business

1. Open Space Mapping: We will have a session to finalize mapping on paper prior to our next HCC meeting on December 19 at 5:00.

1. 2005-06 Annual Report: Draft report reviewed by members. Mike Robbins will send the draft to Wally Jakubas and then submit it.

2. Dorothea Dix Park: A quote for surveying park boundaries is expected soon from Oscar Emerson. Some other legal work may be required by the town attorney for boundary definition.

3. Conservation Award: The Town Council Ordinance Committee has not reviewed proposed criteria yet.

4. Tree Planting: The need for a buffer planting along Rte. 202 near the Coldbrook Road now seems more unlikely.

6. Recommendations for Green Space Signs: A draft sign designed by Mark McCollough was reviewed and well received. Mark will continue to develop concepts based on the discussion.

7. Recommendations for Fish Warden: Further discussion was tabled for the December meeting.

D. New Business

1. Vernal Pool article: Will be revisited at the December meeting.

2. Land Use Priority System: A potential design was discussed that would include both a map noting important areas and a punch list with respect to why the area is important. We then briefly reviewed a draft pit (sand, gravel etc.) ordinance as an example of specifying performance standards.

3. Smart Growth Overlay System: The potential need to identify vernal pools as a habitat in this system and challenges to doing so were discussed. Bob Osbourne noted that vernal pools are not well identified and recent state regulations require a 250 foot set back from significant vernal pools, which are defined by counts of amphibians in the habitat. Don Katnik will check on whether some sort of fact sheet on vernal pools is available for a guide. One strategy discussed to aid in identifying the vernal pools in Hampden was for the Conservation Commission to offer the service of conducting the requisite count for a few critical weeks in the Spring.

4. Community Service Committee: Bob Osbourne led a discussion of ways in which further planning of development is constrained by the need for additional sewer and water capability.

5. Trail mapping: Winter is almost here, the ideal would be to travel trails on a snowmobile with a GPS system in order to map them.

6. Officers for 2007 should be selected at the December meeting.

F. Next meeting date: Next full meeting of the HCC will be December 19, 2006 at 7. It will follow an open space mapping session on paper at 5.